

DOG LICENSING FEES: FAQs

Effective **July 1, 2014**, Pitt County enacted mandatory Dog Licensing Fees for residents of unincorporated Pitt County. We realize there may be many questions surrounding the new fees, so we answer some of the most frequently asked below.

Q: Why should I license my dog?
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A: As of July 1, 2014, The County Commissioners adopted Dog License fees for dog owners in the unincorporated areas of the County. In addition to this, there are several other advantages to licensing your dog:

- The County will have a centralized, computerized database of all licensed dogs in the County.
- Dog licensing tells everyone that your pet is not a homeless stray and that the owner cares enough to register their pet legally.
- Licensing your dog means that Pitt County will telephone you or send you a notice if your lost pet comes into the shelter.
- Licensing your dog means that if your pet is lost and becomes injured, you can be notified promptly so that your pet can receive medical care. Medical treatment of animals without identification and with no known owner may be very limited. Surely this is a decision you wish to make on behalf of your pet.
- A dog license helps to pay for quality animal care services and allows Pitt County to enforce laws that promote public safety and protection and control of animals. Some of these include protection against dangerous animals and investigation of animal bites.
- A dog license helps to support Animal Control investigations of complaints of abuse, neglect and abandonment of animals.
- A dog license helps to support the shelter so that homeless animals may be cared for and adopted by loving families.
- A dog license helps to pay for 24 hour emergency services so that any seriously injured or sick stray animal can be rescued and cared for.
- Licensing your dog can mean your pet's ticket home even though s/he doesn't know their phone number!

Q: Why isn't there a cat fee?

A: While there is not currently a cat licensing fee, the County will continue to assess the need for resources to manage the cat population at a later date.

Q: Are these fees taxes?

A: No. They are fees assessed to owners of dogs to help ensure better identification of your dog in the event the dog is lost, stolen or picked up inadvertently.

Q: How do we know that this will work in Pitt County?

A: Dog Licensing is a common practice throughout the country. There are no guarantees that it will work in Pitt County, but the Commissioners feel that it will help to improve public safety and the welfare of dogs in the County.

Q: How will this be implemented?

A: The County will initially utilize rabies vaccination certification records from local veterinarians. These certifications are reported to Pitt County Animal Control on a monthly basis. Invoices will be generated monthly, from these monthly certifications. Additionally, licensing will occur at the time of animal adoptions from the shelter and at the time of animal reclamation.

Q: Where can I pick up a license?

A: The County will not distribute an actual "license" to be picked up. Licensing information will be stored electronically in a computerized database maintained by the County.

Licensing fees can be paid in-person at the Pitt County Animal Shelter (4550 County Home Road, Greenville, NC 27858) or mailed to the Shelter via US Mail. The Shelter accepts cash, check, money order, credit card/debit card (VISA, MasterCard or Discover).

Q: What documentation do I need to provide in order to obtain a license?

A: Rabies certification will need to be verified in order to obtain a license. The County will send out monthly bills based on rabies certifications received from veterinarians in the County. For citizens who wish to obtain their Dog License prior to being billed (to ensure they are in compliance with the new fees), we ask that they supply a copy of their most recent rabies certificate or give the Pitt County Animal Shelter the name of the veterinarian or rabies certifying official. The County would then reach out to the veterinarian or official for verification.

Q: The fees are separate from the (Canine Control) ordinance. How will the fees be billed?

A: Please see, "How will this be implemented?" above.

Q: How will breeders be affected?

A: Show breeders will be subject to Specialty Licensing Fees. Specialty Licensing Fees include:

Specialty Dog Licenses

05-10 Dogs	45.00
11-20 Dogs	70.00
21 & Over	100.00

1. Multiple Dog License: This license applies to owners who possess at least five (5) dogs. To qualify for this classification, all dogs must be altered (spayed or neutered). Multiple Dog Licenses are valid for one year and are renewable on the date of purchase.
2. Show Breeder License: This license applies to authorized show breeders who possess at least five (5) dogs. To qualify for this classification, the kennel must provide proof of participation in at least three (3) AKC or UKC sanctioned events per year. Dogs do not have to be altered (spayed or neutered). Show Breeder Licenses are valid for one year and are renewable on the date of purchase.
3. Hunting Dog License: This license applies to owners of at least five (5) hunting dogs. To qualify for this classification, the owner must provide proof of a valid and current North Carolina hunting license. Dogs do not have to be altered (spayed or neutered). Hunting Dog Licenses are valid for one year and are renewable on the date of purchase.

Q: If I have more than 1 dog, do I have to pay a separate Dog License fee for each dog?

A: Owners of 1-4 dogs will have to pay a separate license fee for each dog owned. If 5 or more dogs are owned, the owner will then be eligible for a "Multiple Dog License" as indicated above.

Q: Are hunting dogs exempt from the new Dog License fee?

A: No. Hunting dogs must also have a Dog License in Pitt County. Owners of 1-4 hunting dogs will have to pay a separate license fee for each hunting dog owned. Owners of 5 or more hunting dogs are eligible for a "Hunting Dog License" as indicated above.